



State of Michigan
Michigan Department of Public Health
October 1994

Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill Superfund Site

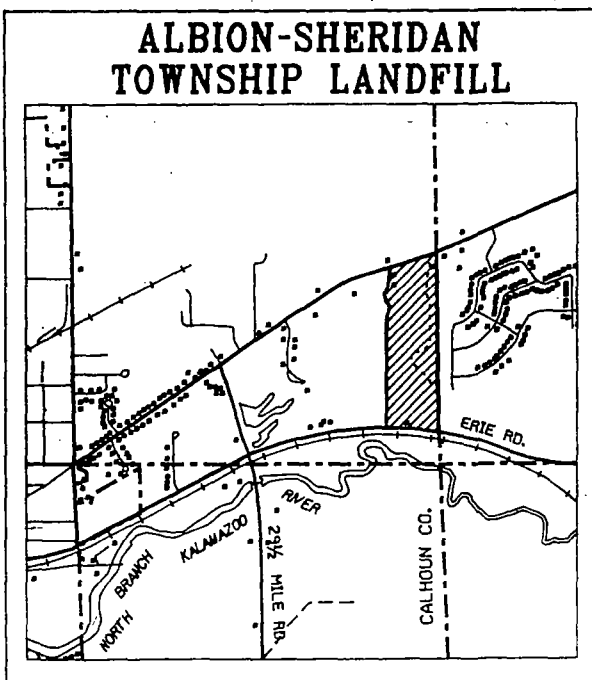
Sheridan Township, Calhoun County, MI

The Michigan Department of Public Health (MDPH) has been assessing the Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill Site to determine possible harm to public health from exposure to chemical contamination. This fact sheet summarizes tentative evaluations and recommendations from the MDPH concerning potential health threats related to the site. A more formal public health assessment document will be released for public review and comment in the near future.

*** WARNING — Any unnecessary exposure to contaminants should be avoided. ***
Do not trespass on hazardous waste sites.

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SITE LOCATION



Albion
Sheridan Township
Michigan

SITUATION SUMMARY

Site History

The Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill (ASTL) site is located approximately one mile east of Albion, Michigan. Now inactive, the ASTL operated officially as a landfill under a state permit from 1966 to 1981. While the landfill was in operation it accepted both municipal and industrial waste. Prior to 1966, while the site was mined for gravel, unauthorized and uncontrolled dumping reportedly occurred at the site. From 1981 to 1985 the site was used as a waste transfer station.

On-Site Contamination

There are partially exposed barrels on the surface of the landfill that contain hazardous chemicals which are known to be flammable or explosive. Some of the barrels are leaking and contain what appears to be oil and grease wastes. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has estimated that 200-400 drums remain beneath the surface. An empty 8,000- gallon tank, previous contents unknown, was also found at the site.

Groundwater and surface soils have been found to contain elevated levels of heavy metals and organic chemicals. Sludge sampled at the site showed elevated levels of chromium, cadmium, lead, nickel, and cyanide.

Off-Site Contamination

Six soil samples were taken near the site, and it was found that only minimal migration of contaminants had occurred.

Sampling of residential wells near the site failed to provide evidence of any pattern of contamination related to the ASTL.

How could I be exposed or harmed by the site?

If you trespass on or near the site you could be exposed to contaminants in the surface soil through direct contact, incidental ingestion, or inhalation of dust. However, the site has been completely fenced to deter people from trespassing.

Trespassers on the site or children with pica behavior (the tendency to ingest dirt or soil) could be exposed to levels of contamination significant enough to cause adverse health effects.

There is potential for the contamination plumes (a plume can be compared to an oil slick in water) to move and eventually affect nearby residential wells.

Various physical hazards such as an abandoned crane, scrap metal, and a large pit exist on the site. Trespassers could be injured by these hazards.

It is possible for on-site contaminants to migrate to nearby surface water (for example the Kalamazoo River) through groundwater or runoff. If you use surface water for recreation such as swimming or fishing, you could be exposed to contaminants by direct contact with water or by eating fish. Water samples from the Kalamazoo River have not been found to have contaminants associated with the ASTL site to this date.

Methane gas located beneath the surface could collect in amounts posing an explosion hazard. This possibility is very remote due to the escape of methane through a sand layer that covers the landfill.

How can I avoid exposure?

The simplest way to avoid exposure or injury is to stay off of the site. Do not trespass on the site or near its boundaries. Any unnecessary contact with the site should be avoided.

If you live near the site and have a private well you

should report any change in the quality of your water (smell, taste, or appearance) to local or state health officials listed at the end of this document.

THE COMMUNITY'S HEALTH CONCERNS

Members of the surrounding community have expressed concerns that a perceived high rate of cancer in the area is related to the site.

BRIEF STATUS

- Investigations into what the community considered a high cancer rate have not confirmed elevated cancer rates or any link between cancer cases and the landfill site.
- In September of 1990 the MDPH, in cooperation with the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR), released a Preliminary Public Health Assessment for the site.
- Currently, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is considering alternatives for remediation of the site. A thirty day public comment period concerning the alternatives begins on October 3, 1994.

MDPH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION

The Michigan Department of Public Health has recommended the following measures to lessen the risk of adverse health effects and safety hazards:

- The remediation should be designed to control off-site migration of contaminants.
- Exposed drums containing waste materials should be removed as part of the remediation.
- The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), MDPH, and the Calhoun County Health Department should inform the community about health risks associated with the site.

- Residential and monitoring wells should be sampled regularly to detect any movement of the contaminated plume (the United States Environmental Protection Agency plans to do this as part of the remediation).
- Sampling of surface water and sediments should be conducted to detect any site related contamination that could develop.

the near future. It will be available through the same channels. A thirty day comment period will allow the public to address the Health Assessment before it is finalized.

ATSDR HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

ATSDR is a federal public health agency headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. ATSDR's mission is to prevent exposure and adverse human health effects and diminished quality of life associated with exposure to hazardous substances from waste sites, unplanned releases, and other sources of pollution in the environment. MDPH works in partnership with ATSDR in conducting health assessments, consultations, and community education. An ATSDR Health Assessment is an evaluation of data and information on the release of hazardous substances into the environment. These assessments are required by the Superfund law for the National Priorities List toxic waste sites. Among the objectives of the assessments are:

- To assess any current or future impacts on public health,
- To develop health advisories or other health recommendations, and
- To identify actions needed to remove hazards and any studies needed to further evaluate health effects.

A health assessment for a specific site consists of the analysis of all available information (levels of contamination, health hazards associated with contaminants of concern, identification of sensitive populations, etc.). The assessment process uses existing information and can change as more becomes available.

The MDPH, under a cooperative agreement with the ATSDR, completed a Preliminary Health Assessment for the ASTL site. It is available at the local repository listed on the next page or by calling Brendan Boyle of the MDPH. The MDPH/ATSDR will be releasing a Public Health Assessment for the site in

INFORMATION SOURCES

For additional health information regarding the Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill site, contact the following agencies:

Michigan Department of Public Health

Brendan Boyle
Division of Health Risk Assessment, Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health
3423 Martin Luther King Blvd.
P.O. Box 30195
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: (517) 335-8350
Toll Free: 800-648-6942

Calhoun County Health Department

Ted Havens
Calhoun County Health Department
190 E Michigan
Battle Creek, MI 49017
Phone: (616) 966-1241

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR):

Louise Fabinski
ATSDR, Region V
77 West Jackson, Mail Code HS-6J
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: (312) 886-0840

For updated information concerning the Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill site, contact the following agencies:

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Jim Myers
Site Manager
MDNR
Environmental Response Division
Knapps Center, 309 S. Washington
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: (517) 373-2745

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Rosita Clarke
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. EPA, Region V
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: (312) 886-7251

Site information is also available in the following local repository:

Albion Public Library
501 S. Superior St.
Albion, MI 49224

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